



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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United States
Department of
Agriculture



WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: May 13, 2012

Number: 10

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MAY 13, 2012

The rainfall has continued across the Commonwealth, assisting crops in some areas and hindering farmers in others. Some producers were able to work around scattered showers and make considerable progress on corn, soybean, tobacco and cotton planting. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.2. For the most part, showers have been beneficial to emerging crops, but dry weather is now needed so growers can continue with planting and hay cutting. Some slug injury has been reported in corn. The additional rain has also been problematic for strawberry farmers – spoilage has occurred in ripe fruit due to a lack of pickers.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 13, 2012	0	13	81	6
May 7, 2012	1	13	78	8
April 29, 2012	1	15	74	10
April 22, 2012	6	19	67	8
April 15, 2012	22	48	29	1

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 13, 2012	2	18	77	3
May 8, 2012	2	22	74	2
April 29, 2012	6	18	73	3
April 22, 2012	10	22	62	6
April 15, 2012	11	42	45	2

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

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Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	3	24	65	7
Livestock	0	2	18	58	22
Hay, Other	0	5	38	51	6
Hay, Alfalfa	0	0	21	61	18
Corn	0	0	18	78	4
Winter Wheat	0	2	13	73	12
Barley	0	3	19	70	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	27	50	23
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	54	36	10
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	20	70	10
Apples, All	0	3	47	40	10
Peaches	0	7	38	46	9
Grapes	0	2	32	51	15
Oats	0	0	17	75	8

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	84	79	78	78
Corn Emerged	71	55	54	58
Winter Wheat Headed	96	92	84	68
Soybeans Planted	21	10	20	15
Soybeans Emerged	8	0	4	3
Barley Harvested	11	0	NA	NA
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	58	28	41	48
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	15	9	10	10
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	30	9	27	17
Peanuts Planted	33	5	36	30
Cotton Planted	58	27	67	56

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 13, 2012

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to May 12	Mar. 1 to May 12 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	72	51	75	41	62	1	815	586	0.39	8.72	-0.08	13.55	-1.84
Norfolk	73	57	81	52	65	1	930	628	1.41	7.19	-1.68	11.66	-4.53
Richmond	75	53	79	47	64	1	909	678	0.84	6.29	-2.44	11.24	-3.94
Roanoke	72	53	76	42	62	0	861	NA	0.58	7.68	-1.35	11.58	-3.86
Wash/Dulles	71	51	77	39	61	1	737	NA	0.46	3.96	-4.29	8.05	-6.07

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Light rain early in the week inhibited some field work, but clear mild conditions from mid week on allowed corn to be planted and other field activities. Temperatures were seasonably mild with cool nights.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent the week planting full-season soybeans, side-dressing corn with nitrogen, and making hay. Some slug injury to corn has been reported. We are also seeing some sulfur deficiency in corn. Barley is maturing and harvest will probably begin before the end of the month.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Nice showers this week and weekend. Corn looks much better. There has been very few problems with crop so far, a few slugs and a few micro-nutrient concerns. Warmer conditions would really set it off. Some side-dressing of N has begun. Bean planting continues, and also field prep for soybean planting. Wet conditions in some places are delaying planting. Barley is turning golden and wheat has begun to make some changes. Barley harvest could begin before the end of May. Vegetable planting continues. Cantaloupes, tomatoes and peppers are planted. Warm weather would help. Haymaking has gotten into full swing. Producers are working between the showers.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Rain rain go away, come back when your needed again. Franklin county is going to be wet today. The weather is calling for a dry week after the rain today and chances on Tuesday. Highs in the 70's, will hopefully dry thing up so producers can get out and bale hay and finish getting corn in the ground. With all the rain Monday we will need a few days of warm temps and wind to dry everything.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

A little rain on Sunday was beneficial to some plantings. Soybeans are beginning to emerge, as well as, corn. Some hay is currently being cut; some cut late in the week was rained on Sunday. Tobacco is being planted.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Crops are doing well with the recent rains. There are some wet spots in fields limiting some planting. Cotton planting is winding down. Full season soybean planting continues. Peanuts should be starting this week. Pastures are looking good. The wheat crop should be above average. Remember, small grains certifications are due to be reported to FSA by May 31st.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

More rain fell over most of the area this week putting an end to all field work. Growers were about to get started with peanut and soybean planting, along with herbicide burndown for soybeans.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Corn planting is pretty much complete. Some soybeans are being planted at this point. The timely rains are working out well for the corn, but causing some issues for our strawberry farmers. With the rains keeping pickers out, some spoilage of ripe fruit has been seen.

SOUTHWESTERN

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Cool wet weather has slowed producers' ability to get into hay fields this week. Hay, like many other plants, is tending to be "ahead of schedule" this spring. Fescue is past optimal harvest stage and orchard grass is beginning to ripen as well. Drier, hot weather is needed next week to make a quality first cutting.



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